

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 23, line 2 is amended from "which provided" to --which is provided--.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15 and 21-26 as presented in the amendments to the claims filed 09/13/2010 and in the Examiner's Amendment above are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims in this application have been allowed because the prior art of record fails to disclose, either singly or in combination, the claimed invention, including a cap being initially integral with a body of a lancet and subsequently removable from the body by rotating the cap relative to the lancet and a cam mechanism for rotating the lancet relative to the cap as set forth in claim 15 and a cam mechanism for converting a retracting movement of a lancet holder along a longitudinal axis of a housing into rotation of a lancet holder and the lancet relative to the cap for removing the cap from the body of the lancet as set forth in claim 21.

The closest prior of art of record includes:

- US 7,500,967 to Thorley who discloses a cam mechanism, rotating lancet relative to a cap and a needle, however, doesn't expressly disclose, teach or suggest where the cap is initially integral and subsequently removable or where the cap is separate from the housing.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SEAN P. DOUGHERTY whose telephone number is (571)270-5044. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571) 272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sean P. Dougherty/
Examiner, Art Unit 3736

/Max Hindenburg/

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736